

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1725, H.R. 1405, and H.R. 1901, the measures just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN BASIN
RESTORATION ACT OF 2000

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 484 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 484

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2957) to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to authorize funding to carry out certain water quality restoration projects for Lake Pontchartrain Basin, Louisiana, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. Points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with clause 4(a) of rule XIII are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may: (1) postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment; and (2) reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be 15 minutes. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature a sub-

stitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 484 would grant H.R. 2957, the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Act, an open rule waiving clause 4(a) of rule XIII that requires a 3-day layover of the committee report against consideration of the bill.

The rule provides one hour of general debate to be equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The rule makes in order the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure amendment in the nature of a substitute now printed in the bill as an original bill for the purpose of amendment, which shall be open for amendment at any time.

The rule authorizes the Chair to accord priority in recognition to Members who have preprinted their amendments in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. In addition, the rule allows the chairman of the Committee of the Whole to postpone votes during the consideration of the bill and to reduce voting time to 5 minutes on a postponed question if the vote follows a 15 minute vote. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of H.R. 2957 is to coordinate and provide financial and technical assistance for water quality restoration activities in the Lake Pontchartrain Basin. The Lake Pontchartrain watershed covers a 5,000 square mile area, including all or part of 16 Louisiana parishes and four counties in Mississippi.

Since the 1940s, increasing population, urbanization and land use changes have adversely affected the basin, resulting in a number of serious environmental problems and declining health of the watershed. To address this problem, H.R. 2957 would establish within the EPA the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Program in order to restore the ecological health of the basin by developing and funding restoration projects and related scientific and public education projects.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that implementing H.R. 2957 would cost \$108 million over the 2001 to 2005 period, assuming appropriation of

those authorized amounts. The bill would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. Furthermore, the bill contains no intergovernmental or private sector mandates and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support both the open rule reported by the Committee on Rules and the underlying bill, H.R. 2957.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 484 is an open rule providing for 1 hour of general debate on H.R. 2957, the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Act. The rule does provide one waiver, however. Since the bill was not filed until yesterday, the rule waives the 3-day layover requirement of clause 4(a) of rule XIII.

This legislation establishes Lake Pontchartrain as an estuary of national significance under the National Estuary Program and requires EPA to establish a Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program to coordinate efforts to reduce pollution and restore the health of the basin watershed. These are important steps to improve the health of this important body of water. The bill also authorizes \$100 million for a project to reduce the amount of sewage that enters the lake from New Orleans and neighboring parishes.

Mr. Speaker, I know of no controversy surrounding this bill. Therefore, I support this open rule, which will allow any Member to offer germane amendments to this proposal.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I know that it is not in order at all for me to say this, but it is my mother's 86th birthday today, and I am not going to mention that in a formal sense.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington). Pursuant to House Resolution 484 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2957.

□ 1458

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the